

**FUTURE FISHERIES IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM
GRANT APPLICATION**

(please fill in the highlighted areas)

I. APPLICANT INFORMATION

- A. Applicant Name: Trapper Peak Ranch c/o Allen LaRue
- B. Mailing Address: Box 1242
- C. City: Hamilton State: Montana Zip: 59840
- Telephone: 406-360-4654
- D. Contact Person: Allen LaRue
- Address if different from Applicant:
- City: State: Zip:
- Telephone:
- E. Landowner and/or Lessee Name
(if other than Applicant): Sandra Lloyd
- Mailing Address: 248 Grouse Butte Lane
- City: Darby State: Mt Zip: 59829
- Telephone: 406-821-0253

II. PROJECT INFORMATION*

- A. Project Name: Chaffin Creek Fish Screen
- River, stream, or lake: Chaffin Creek
- Location: Township 2N Range 21W Section 3
- County: Ravalli
- B. Purpose of Project:
- Install fish screen on irrigation diversion on Chaffin Creek
- C. Brief Project Description:
- The Trapper Peak Ranch intends to install a fish screen at the Long Conner Ditch Point of Diversion on Chaffin Creek in order to prevent fish entrainment.
- D. Length of stream or size of lake that will be treated: Approximately five miles

E. Project Budget:

Grant Request (Dollars): \$ **11,779.00**

Contribution by Applicant (Dollars): \$ **3,128.53** In-kind \$ **1,600.00**
(salaries of government employees are not considered as matching contributions)

Contribution from other Sources (Dollars): \$ In-kind \$
(attach verification - See page 2 budget template)

Total Project Cost: \$ **16,507.53**

F. Attach itemized (line item) budget – see template

G. Attach specific project plans, detailed sketches, plan views, photographs, maps, evidence of landowner consent, evidence of public support, and/or other information necessary to evaluate the merits of the project. If project involves water leasing or water salvage complete supplemental questionnaire (fwp.mt.gov/habitat/futurefisheries/supplement2.doc).

H. Attach land management and maintenance plans that will ensure protection of the reclaimed area.

III. PROJECT BENEFITS*

A. What species of fish will benefit from this project?:

Chaffin Creek supports resident populations of westslope cutthroat, brook and bull trout and slimy sculpin. It is not known if fluvial westslope cutthroat and bull trout migrate into Chaffin Creek to spawn. All of these species should benefit from this project.

B. How will the project protect or enhance wild fish habitat?:

The Long Connor Ditch Point of Diversion (POD) conveys the most senior water rights on Chaffin Creek guaranteeing stream flow throughout the entire irrigation season to this head-gate. This POD is located on Chaffin Creek where native westslope cutthroat and bull trout have been documented consistently in “presence and absence” assessments by fisheries biologists. Due to de-watering on the lower end of Chaffin Ck, only a few miles of the creek system offers adequate flow and habitat throughout the summer. This reach supports bull trout and the majority of the fisheries. The Long Connor Ditch is situated on the lower end of this inhabited reach, while a waterfall acts as a natural barrier to bull trout approximately 2.5 miles upstream from this POD. In essence, the geographical location of this POD, make it a prime candidate for native fish and non-native fish entrainment and its screening would protect the water limited and confined fishery that exists on the Chaffin Creek system.

C. Will the project improve fish populations and/or fishing? To what extent?:

Yes. It will reduce fish loss. As stated above, fisheries data spatially shows these species inhabit this portion of Chaffin Creek that the diversion is located on. This POD is one of the only irrigation diversion which operates throughout the entire irrigation season due to the most senior water rights being associated with it.

D. Will the project increase public fishing opportunity for wild fish and, if so, how?:

Yes. Protecting fry, juvenile and adult fish from entrainment will allow more recruitment of genetics/fish back to the Bitterroot River while also increasing survivability of resident fish enhancing the reaches adjacent to public lands in the watershed.

E. If the project requires maintenance, what is your time commitment to this project?:

The Trapper Peak Ranch will donate labor to the installation of this project as well as commit labor to check the POD daily throughout the irrigation season. Daily POD inspection is currently required for water measurement and separation of water rights which are co-mingled within this diversion. Meaning that someone has to check water level everyday to determine proportions of the #1 water right and the #2 water right. Cleaning and checking the screen would not be a problem.

F. What was the cause of habitat degradation in the area of this project and how will the project correct the cause?:

Habitat degradation in Chaffin Creek includes dewatering during late summer and fish entrainment in ditches. Otherwise habitat is generally very good on this creek system. This project will directly address the fish entrainment issue, while the Trapper Peak Ranch is currently assessing potential benefits for leasing late season irrigation water for instream purposes with hopes that there are ways to enhance late-season flows in Chaffin Creek.

G. What public benefits will be realized from this project?:

Increased fish populations in lower and upper Chaffin Creek are the most obvious benefit. If migratory fish use Chaffin Creek for spawning, the Bitterroot River fishery may be enhanced by this project as well. The mouth of Chaffin Creek at the Bitterroot River is located in a very popular stretch of river for public fishing. Improving recruitment of fish back to the Bitterroot would indeed enhance fishing within this reach.

H. Will the project interfere with water or property rights of adjacent landowners? (explain):

No.

I. Will the project result in the development of commercial recreational use on the site?: (explain):

No

J. Is this project associated with the reclamation of past mining activity?:

No

Each approved project sponsor must enter into a written agreement with the Department specifying terms and duration of the project.

IV. AUTHORIZING STATEMENT

I (we) hereby declare that the information and all statements to this application are true, complete, and accurate to the best of my (our) knowledge and that the project or activity complies with rules of the Future Fisheries Improvement Program.

Applicant Signature:

Date:

Sponsor (if applicable):

***Highlighted boxes will automatically expand.**

**Mail To: Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks
Habitat Protection Bureau
PO Box 200701
Helena, MT 59620-0701**

Incomplete or late applications will be returned to applicant.

Applications may be rejected if this form is modified.

*****Applications may be submitted at anytime, but must be received by the Future Fisheries Program office in Helena before December 1 and June 1 of each year to be considered for the subsequent funding period.*****

